

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**  
**for the**  
**NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS**

**CADENCE BANK f/k/a BANCORPSOUTH**  
**BANK, et al.,**

**Plaintiff(s),**

**v.**

**BRIDGELINK ENGINEERING, LLC, et al.,**

**Defendant(s).**

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**Civil Action No. 4:23-cv-00609-BJ**

**RETURN OF SERVICE**

Came to my hand on **Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 4:08 PM,**  
Executed at: **1071 HARVEST HILL DRIVE, PROSPER, TX 75078**  
at **11:20 AM, on Saturday, October 21, 2023,**

by individually and personally delivering to the within named:

**AARON JOHNSON**

a true copy of this

**SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY AT A DEPOSITION IN A CIVIL ACTION with EXHIBIT A TO  
SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM FOR AARON JOHNSON**

and tendered a witness fee of \$70.00 in Cash for one day's attendance and mileage allowed by law, per  
FRCP 45(b)(1).

I am a person not less than eighteen (18) years of age and I am competent to make this oath. I am a resident of the State of Texas. I have personal knowledge of the facts and statements contained herein and aver that each is true and correct. I am not a party to nor related or affiliated with any party to this suit. I have no interest in the outcome of the suit. I have never been convicted of a felony or of a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude."

**My name is Adil Tadli, my date of birth is May 13, 1967 and my business address is 5470 L.B.J. Freeway, Dallas, Texas, 75240 in the county of Dallas, United States of America. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.**

Executed in Dallas County, State of Texas, on Tuesday, October 24, 2023

By: \_\_\_\_\_

**Adil Tadli - PSC 1206 - Exp 05/31/24**

# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the

Northern District of Texas

Cadence Bank f/k/a BancorpSouth Bank, et al.

*Plaintiff*

v.

Bridgelink Engineering, LLC, et al.

*Defendant*

Civil Action No. 4:23-cv-00609-BJ

## SUBPOENA TO TESTIFY AT A DEPOSITION IN A CIVIL ACTION

To: Aaron Johnson, 1071 Harvest Hill Drive, Prosper, TX 75078

*(Name of person to whom this subpoena is directed)*

☒ **Testimony:** YOU ARE COMMANDED to appear at the time, date, and place set forth below to testify at a deposition to be taken in this civil action. If you are an organization, you must promptly confer in good faith with the party serving this subpoena about the following matters, or those set forth in an attachment, and you must designate one or more officers, directors, or managing agents, or designate other persons who consent to testify on your behalf about these matters:

Place: Otteson Shapiro LLP, 5420 LBJ Frwy, Suite 1225  
Dallas, TX 75240

Date and Time:

11/16/2023 9:30 am

The deposition will be recorded by this method: Court Reporter

☒ **Production:** You, or your representatives, must also bring with you to the deposition the following documents, electronically stored information, or objects, and must permit inspection, copying, testing, or sampling of the material: See Exhibit A

The following provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 45 are attached – Rule 45(c), relating to the place of compliance; Rule 45(d), relating to your protection as a person subject to a subpoena; and Rule 45(e) and (g), relating to your duty to respond to this subpoena and the potential consequences of not doing so.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

CLERK OF COURT

OR

/s/ John C. Leininger

*Signature of Clerk or Deputy Clerk*

*Attorney's signature*

The name, address, e-mail address, and telephone number of the attorney representing *(name of party)* Century Bank

, who issues or requests this subpoena, are:  
John C. Leininger, Otteson Shapiro LLP, 5420 LBJ Frwy, Suite 1225, Dallas, TX 75240; (469) 397-4830

### Notice to the person who issues or requests this subpoena

If this subpoena commands the production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things before trial, a notice and a copy of the subpoena must be served on each party in this case before it is served on the person to whom it is directed. Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(4).

Civil Action No. 4:23-cv-00609-BJ

**PROOF OF SERVICE**

*(This section should not be filed with the court unless required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 45.)*

I received this subpoena for *(name of individual and title, if any)* \_\_\_\_\_  
on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ I served the subpoena by delivering a copy to the named individual as follows: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ on *(date)* \_\_\_\_\_; or

☐ I returned the subpoena unexecuted because: \_\_\_\_\_

Unless the subpoena was issued on behalf of the United States, or one of its officers or agents, I have also  
tendered to the witness the fees for one day's attendance, and the mileage allowed by law, in the amount of  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

My fees are \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for travel and \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for services, for a total of \$ 0.00 .

I declare under penalty of perjury that this information is true.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Printed name and title*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Server's address*

Additional information regarding attempted service, etc.:

## Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 45 (c), (d), (e), and (g) (Effective 12/1/13)

### (c) Place of Compliance.

(1) *For a Trial, Hearing, or Deposition.* A subpoena may command a person to attend a trial, hearing, or deposition only as follows:

- (A) within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; or
- (B) within the state where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person, if the person
  - (i) is a party or a party's officer; or
  - (ii) is commanded to attend a trial and would not incur substantial expense.

(2) *For Other Discovery.* A subpoena may command:

- (A) production of documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things at a place within 100 miles of where the person resides, is employed, or regularly transacts business in person; and
- (B) inspection of premises at the premises to be inspected.

### (d) Protecting a Person Subject to a Subpoena; Enforcement.

(1) *Avoiding Undue Burden or Expense; Sanctions.* A party or attorney responsible for issuing and serving a subpoena must take reasonable steps to avoid imposing undue burden or expense on a person subject to the subpoena. The court for the district where compliance is required must enforce this duty and impose an appropriate sanction—which may include lost earnings and reasonable attorney's fees—on a party or attorney who fails to comply.

(2) *Command to Produce Materials or Permit Inspection.*

(A) *Appearance Not Required.* A person commanded to produce documents, electronically stored information, or tangible things, or to permit the inspection of premises, need not appear in person at the place of production or inspection unless also commanded to appear for a deposition, hearing, or trial.

(B) *Objections.* A person commanded to produce documents or tangible things or to permit inspection may serve on the party or attorney designated in the subpoena a written objection to inspecting, copying, testing, or sampling any or all of the materials or to inspecting the premises—or to producing electronically stored information in the form or forms requested. The objection must be served before the earlier of the time specified for compliance or 14 days after the subpoena is served. If an objection is made, the following rules apply:

- (i) At any time, on notice to the commanded person, the serving party may move the court for the district where compliance is required for an order compelling production or inspection.
- (ii) These acts may be required only as directed in the order, and the order must protect a person who is neither a party nor a party's officer from significant expense resulting from compliance.

(3) *Quashing or Modifying a Subpoena.*

(A) *When Required.* On timely motion, the court for the district where compliance is required must quash or modify a subpoena that:

- (i) fails to allow a reasonable time to comply;
  - (ii) requires a person to comply beyond the geographical limits specified in Rule 45(c);
  - (iii) requires disclosure of privileged or other protected matter, if no exception or waiver applies; or
  - (iv) subjects a person to undue burden.
- (B) *When Permitted.* To protect a person subject to or affected by a subpoena, the court for the district where compliance is required may, on motion, quash or modify the subpoena if it requires:

(i) disclosing a trade secret or other confidential research, development, or commercial information; or

(ii) disclosing an unretained expert's opinion or information that does not describe specific occurrences in dispute and results from the expert's study that was not requested by a party.

(C) *Specifying Conditions as an Alternative.* In the circumstances described in Rule 45(d)(3)(B), the court may, instead of quashing or modifying a subpoena, order appearance or production under specified conditions if the serving party:

- (i) shows a substantial need for the testimony or material that cannot be otherwise met without undue hardship; and
- (ii) ensures that the subpoenaed person will be reasonably compensated.

### (e) Duties in Responding to a Subpoena.

(1) *Producing Documents or Electronically Stored Information.* These procedures apply to producing documents or electronically stored information:

(A) *Documents.* A person responding to a subpoena to produce documents must produce them as they are kept in the ordinary course of business or must organize and label them to correspond to the categories in the demand.

(B) *Form for Producing Electronically Stored Information Not Specified.* If a subpoena does not specify a form for producing electronically stored information, the person responding must produce it in a form or forms in which it is ordinarily maintained or in a reasonably usable form or forms.

(C) *Electronically Stored Information Produced in Only One Form.* The person responding need not produce the same electronically stored information in more than one form.

(D) *Inaccessible Electronically Stored Information.* The person responding need not provide discovery of electronically stored information from sources that the person identifies as not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. On motion to compel discovery or for a protective order, the person responding must show that the information is not reasonably accessible because of undue burden or cost. If that showing is made, the court may nonetheless order discovery from such sources if the requesting party shows good cause, considering the limitations of Rule 26(b)(2)(C). The court may specify conditions for the discovery.

(2) *Claiming Privilege or Protection.*

(A) *Information Withheld.* A person withholding subpoenaed information under a claim that it is privileged or subject to protection as trial-preparation material must:

- (i) expressly make the claim; and
- (ii) describe the nature of the withheld documents, communications, or tangible things in a manner that, without revealing information itself privileged or protected, will enable the parties to assess the claim.

(B) *Information Produced.* If information produced in response to a subpoena is subject to a claim of privilege or of protection as trial-preparation material, the person making the claim may notify any party that received the information of the claim and the basis for it. After being notified, a party must promptly return, sequester, or destroy the specified information and any copies it has; must not use or disclose the information until the claim is resolved; must take reasonable steps to retrieve the information if the party disclosed it before being notified; and may promptly present the information under seal to the court for the district where compliance is required for a determination of the claim. The person who produced the information must preserve the information until the claim is resolved.

(g) *Contempt.*

The court for the district where compliance is required—and also, after a motion is transferred, the issuing court—may hold in contempt a person who, having been served, fails without adequate excuse to obey the subpoena or an order related to it.

**EXHIBIT A TO SUBPOENA DUCES TECUM FOR AARON JOHNSON**

**Definitions:**

1. "All" includes the word "Any" and vice versa.
2. "Communications" means any oral, written or electronic transmission of information without limitation, including meetings, discussions, conversations, telephone calls, memoranda, letters, telecopies, telexes, email messages, conferences, seminars, or notes.
3. "Crayhill Litigation" means the litigation styled Bridgelink Engineering, LLC, et al., v. Knights Hill Ireland II DAC, et al., Index No. 652029/2023 previously pending in the New York Supreme Court.
4. "Loan Agreement" means that certain Credit Agreement dated as of August 6, 2021, between Bridgelink Engineering, LLC as borrower, and Bancorpsouth Bank a division of Cadence Bank and Century Bank as lenders.
5. "Quality of Earnings Report" means that certain Project Solar Financial Due Diligence report issued by Grant Thornton in November 2022.
6. "You" means Aaron Johnson.

**The witness is commanded to provide the following items at the deposition.**

1. All Communications between you and Preston Bass, Cord Johnson, and/or Cole Johnson regarding Bridgelink Engineering, LLC's access to funds under the accordion feature in the Loan Agreement.
2. All Communications between you and Preston Bass, Cord Johnson, and/or Cole Johnson regarding the borrowing base certificates provided by Bridgelink Engineering, LLC to Cadence Bank and/or Century Bank.
3. All Communications between you and Grant Thornton regarding the Quality of Earnings Report.
4. All Communications related to the collection of accounts receivable owed to Bridgelink Engineering, LLC.
5. All Communications between you and Cord Johnson and/or Cole Johnson regarding their personal guarantees of Bridgelink Engineering, LLC's debt under the Loan Agreement.
6. All Communications related to the Crayhill Litigation.
7. All Communications concerning your departure from Bridgelink Engineering, LLC and/or Bridgelink Investments, LLC.